



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

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NRC, WALTER REED ARMY MEDICAL CENTER OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS APPARENT VIOLATIONS IDENTIFIED AT WASHINGTON, D.C., FACILITY

Officials from Walter Reed Army Medical Center will meet with Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff on Wednesday, Sept. 1, to provide additional information regarding two apparent violations identified by NRC inspectors during a review at the Washington, D.C., facility earlier this year. The apparent violations involve the control and use of nuclear materials used by the center for medical purposes.

The meeting, known as a Predecisional Enforcement Conference, will begin at 1 p.m. at the NRC's Region I Office, at 475 Allendale Road in King of Prussia, Pa. Directions to the Region I Office are available at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/locations/region1.html>. The session will be open to the public and there will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of NRC before the meeting ends.

During a review carried out in May and June, NRC inspectors identified the following apparent violations at Walter Reed: 1.) the medical center failed to control access to two packages of radioactive materials between May 1 and 3, as required by NRC regulations; and 2.) the center did not conduct operations so that radiation levels in an unrestricted area did not exceed NRC allowable limits, specifically 2 millirems in any one hour.

At the Predecisional Enforcement Conference, Walter Reed officials will be able to present additional information concerning the issues identified. Topics that may be covered include a common understanding of the facts, root causes of the apparent violations, missed opportunities to identify the apparent violations sooner, corrective actions and the significance of the issues. No decision on enforcement will be made at the conference. Rather, NRC staff will take information provided under consideration and render a decision regarding any possible enforcement action in the near future.

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